

**To:** Zito, Kelly[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV]  
**Cc:** Blumenfeld, Jared[BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV]; Vaught, Laura[Vaught.Laura@epa.gov]; Keener, Bill[Keener.Bill@epa.gov]  
**From:** Distefano, Nichole  
**Sent:** Tue 8/11/2015 6:52:43 PM  
**Subject:** RE: TPs for Kirkpatrick

Kelly –

Just checking to make sure this is still accurate or if there need to be any updates. And just to be clear I have no expectation either way. I just want to make sure that she has the latest.

Thanks.

Nichole Distefano

Deputy Associate Administrator

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-5200

[Distefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:Distefano.Nichole@epa.gov)

**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 6:37 PM  
**To:** Distefano, Nichole  
**Cc:** Blumenfeld, Jared; Vaught, Laura; Keener, Bill  
**Subject:** Re: TPs for Kirkpatrick

Hi Nichole - Below is the latest summary of our activities on this response. In general, we continue to be in very close communication with the Navajo Nation and are coordinating with them on various efforts including sampling and community outreach. By mid-week, Region 9 expects to have 15 staff and contractors on site to handle emergency response, water sampling and communications/coordination with the Navajo Nation. Additionally, Region 9 is holding daily calls with the Navajo Nation, sending them daily updates via email, and we are working to set up an 800 number for Navajo Nation citizens who are seeking to have their water tested.

Please let me know what other information I can provide.

Thanks-

Kelly

#### **EPA Region 9 Activities - Gold King Mine Response (8/10)**

- On Saturday (Aug. 8) the President of the Navajo Nation declared a State of Emergency for the San Juan River valley. On Sunday, President Begaye and his staff toured the Gold King Mine Site. R9 public information officer Rusty Harris-Bishop escorted the President on the tour. The President and his staff then attended the community meeting in Durango.

- The discharge has moved quickly and was observed near Kirtland, NM. Navajo officials have reacted quickly, assessing their well fields and drinking and irrigation water intake systems and issuing a precautionary "do not use" public service announcement regarding water from potentially impacted sources.

- Region 9 held a conference call Sunday with Navajo Nation EPA (NNEPA) and Navajo Department of Public Safety.

- Region 9 has deployed an On Scene Coordinator (OSC) to the Durango Incident Command

Post to coordinate Navajo field activity updates and results with Region 8 and ensure command messages get back to Navajo officials.

- The Region has also deployed a Public Information Officer (PIO) to participate in a Joint Information Center (JIC), presently in Durango, with and other the affected Federal, State, County and Tribal agencies.

- The Navajo EPA surface water monitoring program (Shiprock Office) collected water and sediment samples from the San Juan River - prior to the spill impact. Region 9 has provided 6 START contractors to coordinate and conduct increased sample collection and lab analysis in conjunction with NNEPA. This joint EPA/NNEPA river sampling program has commenced focusing on the San Juan between Shiprock/Hogback, NM area and Mexican Hat, UT and will continue for the foreseeable future.

- A Region 9 OSC will report to Farmington on Monday to assist. NNEPA also requested drinking water sampling support immediately for Navajo operated water intakes. NNEPA and USEPA drinking water experts agreed to inventory and assess water sources including private wells and intakes.

Region 9 will be providing assistance to Navajo NTUA (utilities) to deliver water to the areas impacted by the Gold King Mine Spill - starting with the Montezuma Creek area. NTUA is sourcing the water from their Sweetwater wells and filling up the service tanks in the affected areas. The ERRS contractor will be providing assistance in the transportation of these waters.

- Two Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) arrived in Farmington Sunday. The CICs will partner with NNEPA and NN Department of Public Safety to ensure comprehensive outreach to all affected Navajo Chapters. The CICs have begun working with local Navajo Chapter officials and will participate in public meetings at Aneth and Oljato on 8/10.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2015, at 3:14 PM, "Distefano, Nichole" <[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2015, at 6:12 PM, Zito, Kelly <[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV](mailto:ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV)> wrote:

We'll get you something ASAP.

Kelly

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 10, 2015, at 2:50 PM, "Distefano, Nichole" <[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov)> wrote:

Jared and Kelly

The Administrator is likely going to have to talk to Cong. Kirkpatrick tomorrow about the Animas River. Her primary concern is the Navajo. Can you send us TPs on this topics with your latest outreach to them? The call hasn't been scheduled on it yet but it will likely be sometime tomorrow

Nichole Distefano

Deputy Associate Administrator

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-5200

[Distefano.Nichole@epa.gov](mailto:Distefano.Nichole@epa.gov)